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REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed June 14, 2006, the Examiner required restriction between Species I characterized by a single row of needles; Species II characterized by two parallel rows of needles; and Species III characterized by a square array of needles.

In response to the Examiner's requirement of election of claims to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, Applicants provisionally elect Species II, with traverse. The Examiner states that the species are independent or distinct because they are mutually exclusive and patentably distinct or in other words, the claims do not overlap in scope. Applicants respectfully disagree. All three species overlap in scope because they all claimed embodiments contain at least a single row of needles. A further requirement for restriction/election of species is that the species must be patentably distinct or, in other words, *clearly patentable* over each other. However, a set of two parallel rows, as in Species II, are not "clearly patentable" over a single set of rows. As a matter of design the inventor is simply choosing to add an additional set of rows. Similarly, a square array of needles contains four sets of a single row of needles and two sets of parallel rows of needles. Therefore, all three species have clear overlap in scope and are not clearly patentable over each other.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

In the event the Examiner after reconsideration maintains the restriction/election of species, Applicants assert that a listing of claims readable on Species II, two parallel row of needles, include the following claims: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.

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Conclusion

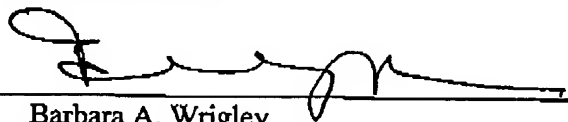
If the Examiner believes that a teleconference would be of value in expediting the allowance of the pending claims, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number listed below. It is believed that no petition or payment for extension of fees is due. If, however, it is believed that any additional fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any such fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Reference #22413-14).

Dated: July 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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